

Application No.: 10/754,612
Reply to May 2, 2008 Office Action

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Attorney Docket No. 0630-1918P

AUG 04 2008

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-25 are pending in the present application. Claim 1, 3 and 7 have been amended, claim 2 has been canceled, and claims 21-25 have been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1 and 6 were rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Burk et al. in view of Koshiga et al.; claims 2-4 and 7-12 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and claims 13-20 were allowed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter recited in dependent claim 2. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-20 are allowable, and the rejection noted in the Office Action has been overcome.

In addition, new claims 21-25 have been added to set forth the invention in a varying scope, and Applicants submit the new claims are supported by the originally-filed application. It is respectfully submitted these new claims are allowable for similar reasons as the other claims.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

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If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Robert J. Webster, Registration No. 46,472, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

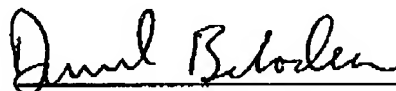
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Date: August 4, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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